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November 6, 2013

ECFS Filing

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Room TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Request for Extension of Time to File 2013 Biennial Ownership Reports
MB Docket No. 07-294

Dear Ms. Dortch:

An extension of time in which to file the 2013 commercial biennial ownership reports on Form 323 is respectfully requested. The current deadline was set forth in *Promoting Diversification in the Broadcasting Services*, DA 13-1710, released August 6, 2013, which established December 2, 2013 as the last day for filing the Form 323. An extension until December 20, 2013, is requested to account for the number of days that CDBS was unavailable during the recent government shutdown and the resulting backlog of work that had to be performed in the days following the shutdown.

The Form 323 must include information accurate as of October 1, 2013, which was the first day of the government shutdown. With the inaccessibility of CDBS to the public through the first 16 days of October, any filings that came due during the shutdown had to be prepared and filed soon after the government re-opened. Those delayed filings in turn strained resources and further truncated the time that could have been devoted to working on ownership reports. The shutdown eliminated approximately one-half of the extra month given for filing ownership reports that was granted in *Promoting Diversification in the Broadcasting Services*, cited above. That Order explained that the reason for extending the deadline from November 1, 2013, to December 2, 2013, was to permit adequate time for licensees and parent entities with multiple stations the time to file numerous forms and to improve the accuracy and reliability of data filed with the FCC.

Because of the shutdown, the Commission also extended the LPFM filing window until November 14, 2013.¹ Work on those applications also limits our remaining availability to work on ownership reports.

¹ *Public Notice*, "Media Bureau Extends Low Power FM Filing Window; Second LPFM Webinar Rescheduled for October 24, 2013," DA 13-2029, released October 18, 2013.

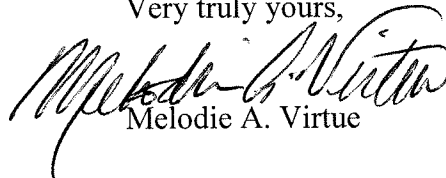


New England radio renewals and Mid-West television renewals are due by December 2, 2013, as are biennial ownership reports on Form 323-E for noncommercial educational (“NCE”) stations that have December 1 renewal anniversary filing deadlines.² Further, radio and TV stations with five or more full-time employees located in states with December 1 filing deadlines must prepare and post their annual EEO public files reports to their web pages by December 2nd as well.³ All of these December 2nd deadlines fall on the first Monday following Thanksgiving weekend, when many of our clients will be unavailable to review and approve the filings and reports they normally expect us to handle for them.

An across the board extension of time would alleviate the pressure on these multiple December 2nd deadlines. An extension of the deadline for biennial ownership reports would also conserve FCC resources that would need to be expended in dealing with multiple requests for extensions of time on a case-by-case basis. The public interest reasons for extending the deadline listed in *Promoting Diversification in the Broadcasting Services*, DA 13-1710, released August 6, 2013, apply with equal force now to support a further extension of time. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the deadline for filing the 2013 Form 323 be extended until December 20, 2013, to account for the days when CDBS was unavailable because of the government shutdown plus the cascading impact that shutdown has had on other filing deadlines.

Should you have any questions regarding this request, kindly communicate directly with this office.

Very truly yours,



Melodie A. Virtue

MAV:cll

cc: Jessica Campbell (via email: jessica.campbell@fcc.gov)

DC_DOCS:715687.2

² All radio stations located in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont, and all television stations located in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, and Colorado must file renewal applications by December 2, 2013. 47 C.F.R. § 73.1020. NCE radio stations located Alabama, Georgia, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont, and NCE television stations located in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, and Colorado must file a Form 323-E by December 2, 2013. 47 C.F.R. § 73.3615(d).

³ Those states are Alabama, Georgia, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Colorado, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. See 47 C.F.R. § 73.1020 and 47 C.F.R. § 73.2080(c)(6).